O. P. JINDAL SCHOOL SAVITRI NAGAR

Half Yearly Examination (2026 – 2027)

Class: XI **MM: 50**

Subject: English Core **Time: 2 Hrs.**

(Fifteen Minutes Extra will be given for reading the Question Paper.)

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three parts: A, B &C. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.
3. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A Reading Skills (12 marks)

Q1. Read the text given below :

(1) Five enterprises received approval and grants for prototype development of sustainable educational toys.

(2) The government authorities, educational institutions and EdTech start-ups are planning to introduce state-of-the-art, made-in-India educational toys that not only throw light on Indian values and civilizations, but also help in developing children's critical thinking, and decision-making skills.

(3) "One such enterprise is working on different types of projects that can teach children how electromagnets and magnetic fields work. These projects can resolve a lot of issues in many schools in tier two and three cities that don't have proper infrastructure. Another is working on an excavation site to teach children about ancient Indian civilizations. It has implanted a few artifacts at the site, which the children will have to find so that they are able to learn how to preserve and label artifacts. Another start up has proposed to create miniaturized labs for schools in tier 2 and 3 cities where children can learn concepts of Physics. "We will ensure that these prototypes are developed within a year and then the production can be scaled up," says the senior manager of the project talking about the importance of indigenously-built educational toys.

(4) Playtime is vital for the cognitive development of children and toys are an essential component that helps enhance specific cognitive abilities and skill sets. "Well-designed toys ignite students' curiosity, increase focus and can be very beneficial in helping them master a skill and enhance understanding. These can be in the form of visuals, auditory aids, kinesthetic, or a mixture of all three." Says HOD, Early Childhood Education.

(5) Toys offer an engaging avenue to teach mathematical, verbal, problem-solving skills. "Toys that engage students in experiential learning enhance their spatial awareness and fine motor skills. Those designed for two or more players help students develop better social skills as they learn to negotiate, settle differences, etc, with their peers."

(6) Experiential gadgets and toys enable students to learn faster and retain lessons longer. "A child's interest is piqued when he is taught in a contextual framework as opposed to rote learning. The Indian education system has been witnessing several innovations with the development of toys and gadgets that can be used and felt in person or through VR platforms across subjects, be it Science, Technology, Maths or Engineering.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage given above : (4 Marks)

i) By Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the author refers to _____ 1

a) Metro cities b) Cities with huge population

c) Underdeveloped cities d) Cities with less population

ii) Complete the sentence with evidence from the text.

The made-in-India educational toys serves dual purpose of _____. 1

iii) The author's point of view that can be inferred from the above passage is that _____. 1

a) educational toys are the booming business.

b) educational toys are meant to entertain children.

c) educational toys will replace teachers.

d) educational toys will make education more pragmatic.

iv) Complete the following sentence appropriately: 1

Educational toys enhance the personality of children by _____.

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. Despite all the research every one of us catches cold and most of us catch it frequently. Our failure to control one of the commonest of all ailments sometimes seems ridiculous. Medical science regularly practises transplant surgery and has rid whole countries of such killing diseases as Typhus and the Plague. But the problem of common cold is unusually difficult and much has yet to be done to solve it. It is known that a cold is caused by one of a number of viral infections that affect the lining of the nose and other passages leading to the lungs but the confusing variety of viruses makes study and remedy very difficult. It was shown in 1960 that many typical colds in adults are caused by one or the other of a family of viruses known as rhinoviruses, yet there still remain many colds for which no virus has as yet been isolated.

2. There is also the difficulty that because they are so much smaller than the bacteria which cause many other infections, viruses cannot be seen with ordinary microscopes. Nor can they be cultivated easily in the bacteriologist's laboratory, since they only grow within the living cells of animals or plants. An important recent step forward, however, is the development of the technique of tissue culture, in which bits of animal tissue are enabled to go on living and to multiply independently in the body. This has greatly aided virus research and has led to the discovery of a large number of viruses. Their existence had previously been not only unknown but even unsuspected.

3. The fact that we can catch a cold repeatedly creates another difficulty. Usually, a virus strikes only once and leaves the victim immune to further attacks. Still, we do not gain immunity from colds. Why? It may possibly be due to the fact that while other viruses get into the bloodstream where anti-bodies can oppose them, the viruses causing cold attack cells only on the surface. Or it may be that immunity from one of the many different viruses does not guarantee protection from all the others. It seems, therefore, that we are likely to have to suffer colds for some time yet.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and the suitable format. Also supply an appropriate title to it. **(5 marks)**

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. **(3 marks)**

SECTION - B Grammar & Creative Writing Skills (13 marks)

Q3. Rearrange the following words into meaningful sentences. (Any 02) (2x1=2 marks)

i) our school/as/selected /have been/I/the Head Boy/of/

ii) given/the responsibility/was/organising/of/ the children's day/I/program

iii) we/committee/formed/a / plan/to/the program

Q4. Attempt any ONE in 50 words. (3 marks)

A. You are Sonam, a graduate in history with specialization in tourism of India. You are well acquainted with places of historical interest in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. You are looking for the job of a tourist guide. Draft a **suitable advertisement** in the situation wanted column of a newspaper in not more than 50 words. Give relevant details.

B. You are Head of a reputed coaching institute who is seeking a tutor for the institute to teach IIT-JEE/NEET aspirants. Draft an **advertisement** in not more than 50 words, inviting the applications from the interested candidates for the post vacant.

Q5. Attempt any ONE in 50 words. (3 marks)

A. During autumn break, Bharati Management Institute, Surat is organising a workshop on "Financial Literacy and Skills" to teach skills of money handling, banking, security etc., for college students. Prepare a **poster** to be put up on the notice board of the institute to invite students for the event in 50 words.

B. You are Shreya/Shekhar working for an NGO dealing with homeless elders and old people. Prepare a **poster** to be displayed in the different parts of the city in not more than 50 words to spread the message to take care of these old age persons, as they are an integral part of our society.

Q6. Attempt ANY ONE of two in 120-150 words. (5 marks)

A. The term "Brain Rot" gained recent popularity especially online, as a slang term to describe the mental state of being overly consumed by certain media, activities, and content. The Literary club of your school has taken up this topic to conduct a debate. You as Ajay/Ankita, a student of class

XI,would like to participate in the debate competition. Draft a debate either for or against the motion, ***"Excessive Social media bingeing leads to Brain Rot."***

B. You are Naman/Namita participating in the Interschool Debate Competition. The topic given to you is ***"Artificial intelligence: A threat to human jobs."*** Prepare a debate including arguments either for or against the motion. You may include arguments such as:

For the Motion	Against the Motion
Replacing human workers	Job creation in many fields
Low skilled labours in danger	Improved efficiency
killing creativity	boom in e-commerce

SECTION – C Literature (25 Marks)

Q7. Read the following extract and answer the questions: (Attempt any ONE) (3 X 1 = 3 Marks)

"Then with eerie delicate whistle-chirrup whisperings
She launches away, towards the infinite and
the laburnum subsides to empty."

i) Which word is the antonym of 'shout'?

a) Eerie b) whisperings c) subsides d) delicate

ii) 'whistle-chirrup whispering' has following literary devices:

1) Alliteration 2) Oxymoron 3) Synecdoche 4) Onomatopoeia

a) 1&4 b) 1&3 c) 2&4 d) 1&2

iii) Why does 'she' launch away?

OR

"And who art thou? said I to the soft-falling shower,
Which, strange to tell, gave me an answer, as here translated:
I am the Poem of Earth, said the voice of the rain,
Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea..."

i) Why does the poet say it is "strange to tell"?

ii) What does the rain call itself?

a) The Music of Nature b) The Poem of Earth

c) The Messenger of Sky d) The Daughter of Ocean

iii) What is the significance of "eternal I rise"?

Q8. Read the following extract and answer the questions.(Attempt any ONE) (3 X 1 = 3 Marks)

"After finding a hammer, screws and canvas, I struggled back on the deck. With the starboard side bashed open, we were taking water with each wave that broke over us. If I couldn't make some

repairs, we would surely sink. Somehow, I managed to stretch canvas and secure waterproof hatch covers across the gaping holes".

i) The statement "we were taking water with each wave" refers to _____

a) they were choked by the water

b) they were drawing water from the sea

c) the Wavewalker was flooded with water with each wave

d) they were about to sink

ii) What repair work was done by him?

iii) *'Gaping holes* on the deck' refers to _____

OR

He was just a teenager when he died. The last heir of a powerful family that had ruled Egypt and its empire for centuries, he was laid to rest laden with gold and eventually forgotten. Since the discovery of his tomb in 1922, the modern world has pondered about what happened to him, with murder being the most extreme possibility. Now, leaving his tomb for the first time in almost 80 years, Tut has undergone a CT scan..."

i) In which year was King Tut's tomb discovered, and by whom?

a) 1905, Zahi Hawass b) 1922, Howard Carter

c) 1968, An anatomy professor d) 2005, Ray Johnson

ii) Why was King Tut laid to rest "laden with gold"?

iii) Which word in the extract means 'thought about or reflected deeply upon'?

Q9. Read the following extract and answer the questions. (Attempt any ONE) (4 X 1 = 4 Marks)

"And what should I have done with them in a small rented room where the shreds of black- out paper still hung along the windows and no more than a handful of cutleries fitted in the narrow table drawer? I resolved to forget the address. Of all the things I had to forget, that would be the easiest."

i) The word 'them' stands for _____

a) Friends b) shred of black-out paper c) feelings d) the belongings

ii) Read the assertion and the reason with reference to above extract.

Assertion (A): The narrator decides to forget the address because she realizes the past is beyond retrieval.

Reason (R): Her encounter with the woman and the things at the address makes her understand that the things she once valued no longer have emotional significance for her.

Choose the correct option:

a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

c) A is true, but R is false.

d) A is false, but R is true

iii) Find a word from the extract opposite to 'abundance'

iv) What is the significance of the *"shreds of black-out paper" still hanging along the windows in the narrator's room?*

a) They symbolize the lasting effects of war and the narrator's inability to fully move on from the past.

b) They represent the narrator's desire to remember the past and keep it alive.

c) They indicate that the narrator's new home is still in disrepair.

d) They are a symbol of the narrator's hope to restore the world to how it was before the war.

OR

"We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty-stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family. Most important of all, though, we were famous for our honesty."

i) Which tribe did Aram and Mourad belong to?

a) Garoghlanian b) Assyrian c) Bedouin d) Armenian

ii) What had been the hallmark of the narrator's tribe for centuries?

iii) What does the expression 'keep us with food in our bellies' mean in this context?

iv) Which phrase in the extract suggests that their poverty was almost absurd or hard to fathom?

Q10. Answer any THREE in about 40-50 words: (3 X 3 = 9 Marks)

i) What thought was almost 'revolting' for the grandson about his grandmother?

ii) Why did the poet call the rain 'impalpable' in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain'?

iii) Explain why Ray Johnson referred to Akhenaten's reign as "a horrific time."

iv) Describe the ride of Aram and Mourad when they went out together for the first time.

Q11. Answer any ONE in about 120-150 words: (6 Marks)

Both texts, 'The Portrait of a lady' and 'A Photograph' explore the theme of recollections of memories of their loved ones. With reference to these chapters, describe the commonality between the main idea, characters and role of a woman in a family.

OR

"Honesty is the foundation for trust." In the light of this quote, elucidate how the Armenian cousins of 'The Summer of the beautiful White horse' and Mrs. Dorling from the chapter, 'The Address' breach the trust and turn out to be disloyal towards their friends and loved ones.
